From: weissman family
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 12:40pm

Subject: MICROSOFT DECISION

We have been very disheartened by the Justice Dept failure to fully protect American consumers from Microsoft. We have not read anything which articulates our opinion better than the following:

"I was seething about Microsoft's arrogance. Then I read about the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the litigants in their monopoly suit. One of the provisions was that Microsoft was going to give a billion dollars worth of refurbished computers and Microsoft software to some of the poorest schools in the country. At first glance this seems altruistic, but then I started thinking about what a billion dollars of Windoze gear dumped into the academic market would mean to Apple, and my rage fired up again.

Here's a company that has been convicted of illegal business practices designed to limit competition. That competition includes Apple, of course. So, this crook of a company suggests that to make up for their crime, they will just make a new initiative into the last remaining market where Apple has a dominant position. A billion-dollar initiative into the academic market would mostly come out of Apple's market share and have serious implications for Apple's ability to maintain its lead in education!

"We're baffled that a settlement imposed against Microsoft for breaking the law should allow, even encourage, them to unfairly make inroads into education -- one of the few markets left where they do not have monopoly power," Apple's CEO Steve Jobs said in a statement.

Well they do make some nice software, but you really need to have your hand on your wallet when you are dealing with the crew from Seattle! I have a solution, though. ;) How about requiring Microsoft to buy a whole bunch of iMacs and iBooks from Apple -- say, a billion dollars' worth -- add Office v.X and THEN give the computers to the schools." -Don Mayer of SmallDog.com , an apple reseller in his newletter Kibbles&Bytes #241

Please try to address the real issues and stay away from the politics, we have not benefitted by microsoft monopoly.

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